

The ARRL (American Radio Relay League) is proposing Amateur License (HAM Radio) changes at the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) that they are calling "a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago, but left unfinished in its Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT-98-143)". The problem with this claim by the ARRL is their opinion of the last restructuring as being 'unfinished' as it did not include all of their 'wish list' (sound like a typical Liberal tactic to you? Like the latest Gun Control measures are 'unfinished' - to be finished when we are all totally disarmed and defenseless...).

Their latest attempt is to totally KILL Morse Code by removing it from testing requirements for licensing. Morse code has been around much longer than they have - to get rid of it will mean it will soon be forgotten - can we just let such a heritage go by the wayside like so many other American values have? They believe that by getting rid of the testing requirements for it, and with the resulting restructuring, more people will 'jump on their bandwagon' by joining ARRL to help support these changes. What are the changes you ask?

They wish to add a new entry level called 'Novice' - a 25 question test - then just roll all Technician and Technician Plus (Technicians with credit for passing the Morse Code test) automatically into General Class. The problem is it is do bad on so many levels! The conspiracy is ARRL is able to convince people that they can get more privileges with less work simply by joining ARRL to support them and thus support the changes - a membership drive at the expense of the Amateur Radio community simply to get rich quick. Remind anyone of say the NRA? Con the public into joining 'for their own good', while they secretly undermine the gun-rights of Americans by incrementally giving concessions over to the Gun Control lobby...

First, the existing entry level 'Technician' is only a 35 question test - only 10 questions more - not a big deal to pass believe me! There's no reason to revise a new entry level test - the existing one is easy enough. The new Novice class, with the 'easier test', adds more frequency privileges than the existing Technician class - some are on HF (High Frequency) that the current Technician class, and even Technician Plus class, doesn't have. So what's going to be the incentive to move on up in the licensing if one can get a Novice License and effectively be able to have nearly the same frequency privileges as the current Technician Plus and General class licensing? Can you say 'stagnant'? One of the 'excuses' ARRL is using is that "if we don't use the Amateur Radio frequencies, we'll lose them, so we need more people licensed" - which BTW is total BULL\$#!T! The frequencies ARE BEING USED, and are actually quite crowded these days... this 'ARRL story' worked twenty years ago, but today it is just another 'old story' lie.

It gets worse, not only would we then have unexperienced entry level radio operators on HF, but we also would have all those existing Technician and Technician Plus operators suddenly dumped on the HF frequencies. The HF frequencies are currently crowded enough, but at least it is crowded with seasoned, experienced Amateur Radio operators who know protocol, band allocations, courtesy, etc. Dumping all the new operators on the upper frequencies is like suddenly allowing total unrestricted immigrants access into

the country who don't know the laws, customs, etc. - chaos ensues (oops, we're already there, eh?). We'll have too many operators on these frequencies, and to add insult to injury, someone trying to get out an emergency message on Morse Code will have a bunch of operators who either can't understand the message, and the few left who can understand it can't get a clear reception of it because of all the interference of all these other operators! Heck, we might as well just give all the Amateur Radio frequencies over to the cell phone companies, eh? Maybe this is the underlying conspriacy! What will happen to the 'last defense' legend of the Ham Radio operator that it there when all the cell towers are blown over, the telephone poles gone, etc.? Who will be there in an emergency like they were during 911, hurricanes, floods, etc.?

Contact the FCC and tell them NO! to the ARRL 'changes' ! ! !